

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Native American Languages Act to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. UDALL (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Native American Languages Act to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Durbin Feeling Native
5 American Languages Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENSURING THE SURVIVAL AND CONTINUING VITAL-**
2 **ITY OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Native Amer-
4 ican Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2905) is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following:

6 “(c) EVALUATION; REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Presi-
8 dent shall—

9 “(1) require the heads of the various Federal
10 departments, agencies, and instrumentalities to
11 carry out an evaluation described in subsection
12 (a)(1); and

13 “(2) submit to Congress a report that de-
14 scribes—

15 “(A) the results of the evaluations; and

16 “(B) the recommendations of the Secretary
17 of the Interior, the Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services, and the Secretary of Edu-
19 cation, after consultation with Indian tribes,
20 traditional leaders, and representatives of Na-
21 tive American language communities, for
22 amendments to Federal laws that are needed—

23 “(i) to bring the Federal laws into
24 compliance with this Act;

25 “(ii) to improve interagency coordina-
26 tion for purposes of supporting revitaliza-

1 tion, maintenance, and use of Native
2 American languages; and
3 “(iii) to reduce duplication, inefficien-
4 cies, and barriers Native American lan-
5 guage communities face in accessing Fed-
6 eral programs to support efforts to revi-
7 talize, maintain, or increase the use of Na-
8 tive American languages.”.

9 (b) SURVEY ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.—
10 The Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et
11 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 108. SURVEY ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of enactment of this section, and every 5 years there-
15 after, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting
16 through the Commissioner of the Administration for Na-
17 tive Americans (referred to in this section as the ‘Sec-
18 retary’), shall undertake a survey of the use of Native
19 American languages in the United States.

20 “(b) UPDATES.—Prior to conducting each subse-
21 quent survey after the initial survey under subsection (a),
22 the Secretary shall update the survey in accordance with
23 this section.

1 “(c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary
2 shall design the initial survey under subsection (a) and
3 each updated survey under subsection (b)—

4 “(1) in consultation with Indian tribes; and

5 “(2) after considering feedback received from
6 Native American language speakers and experts.

7 “(d) CONTENTS.—Each survey under subsection (a)
8 shall solicit—

9 “(1) information on which Native American
10 languages are currently spoken;

11 “(2) estimates of the number of speakers of
12 each Native American language;

13 “(3) any language usage statistics or informa-
14 tion that the Secretary, in consultation with Indian
15 tribes and Native American language speakers and
16 experts, determines to be relevant and appropriate;

17 “(4) information on Native American language
18 maintenance and revitalization projects and prac-
19 tices that are currently being carried out;

20 “(5) information on any unmet Native Amer-
21 ican language resource needs of Indian tribes and
22 Native American language communities; and

23 “(6) any other information that the Secretary,
24 in consultation with Indian tribes and Native Amer-

1 ican language speakers and experts, determines to
2 be necessary.

3 “(e) OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
5 out outreach and engagement activities to provide
6 Indian tribes, Native language communities, and the
7 public information about—

8 “(A) opportunities to provide input on the
9 development and design of each survey under
10 subsection (a), including information on the
11 consultations required under subsection (c);

12 “(B) the goals and purpose of the surveys
13 conducted under subsection (a); and

14 “(C) the benefits and importance of par-
15 ticipation in surveys under subsection (a).

16 “(2) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE
17 AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
18 carry out the outreach and engagement activities re-
19 quired under paragraph (1)—

20 “(A) directly; or

21 “(B) through grants to, or contracts or co-
22 operative agreements with—

23 “(i) Indian tribes;

24 “(ii) tribal organizations; and

1 “(iii) nonprofit organizations that
2 work with Indian tribes, Native American
3 language programs, and Native American
4 language communities.

5 “(f) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section requires
6 an Indian tribe, Native American language community, or
7 Native American language speaker—

8 “(1) to participate in a survey under subsection
9 (a); or

10 “(2) to provide specific or culturally sensitive
11 information in completing such a survey.

12 “(g) AVAILABILITY OF SURVEY MATERIALS AND
13 FINDINGS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
15 after the date of enactment of this section, and prior
16 to conducting each survey under subsection (a), the
17 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Indian
18 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural
19 Resources of the House of Representatives, and
20 make publicly available, a description of—

21 “(A) the feedback received under sub-
22 section (c) on the design of the survey;

23 “(B) the form and content of the survey;

24 “(C) the plan for deploying the survey to
25 ensure a robust response; and

1 “(D) how the Secretary will ensure any
2 survey enumeration efforts are culturally in-
3 formed and appropriate.

4 “(2) RESULTS.—Not later than 90 days after
5 the date on which each survey under subsection (a)
6 is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
7 mittee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
8 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives, and make publicly available, the results
10 of the survey.

11 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$1,500,000 for each fiscal year—

14 “(1) preceding a fiscal year during which a sur-
15 vey under subsection (a) is conducted; and

16 “(2) during which a survey under that sub-
17 section is conducted.”.